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Sherburne Wesley Burnham, M.A., F.R.A.S., Government Building, Chicago, U.S.A.;
Lieut.-Col. G. Defforges, Service Géographique de l'Armée, Paris;
James Edward Keeler, D.Sc., F.R.A.S., Director of the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, U.S.A.;
Henry A. Rowland, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., U.S.A.;
Wilhelm Schur, Observatory, Göttingen, Germany.

Seventy-five presents were announced as having been received since the last meeting, including, amongst others:—

W. T. Lynn, Remarkable Eclipses, 3rd edition; F. McClean, Comparative photographic spectra of stars to the $3\frac{1}{2}$ mag.; and Comparison of oxygen with spectra of Helium stars and summary of spectra of southern stars, presented by the authors. Galileo, Opere, edizione nazionale, vol. vii., presented by the Italian Government; Laplace, Œuvres complètes, tome xii., presented by the Paris Academy; L. Weinek, Photographischer Mond-Atlas, Heft 1, 2, presented by Dr. Weinek; Old transit instrument, formerly belonging to Dr. Longfield of Cork, presented by Miss Lecky, executrix of the late R. J. Lecky, F.R.A.S.

Publication of Eclipse Results.

The question of the publication of the reports of the observers sent out by the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee of the Royal and Royal Astronomical Societies has been under consideration by that Committee and by the Councils of the two Societies which it represents; and by the generosity of the Royal Society a very satisfactory solution has been arrived at. The main difficulty lay in the choice of the series of publications: if the reports were communicated, as on other occasions, to the Royal Society, it was felt that they would not be easily accessible to many astronomers; while if, on the other hand, they were printed in the publications of this Society they would not be sufficiently brought to the notice of physicists and others. To print them in both series would have obvious disadvantages from the point of view of economy.

The solution arrived at is as follows: The Preliminary Reports are to be printed in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society.* After the usual copies have been struck off for the use of Fellows of the Royal Society, the printers will then be directed to strike off one thousand copies more, altering merely the paging to a series of figures in brackets—(1), (2), &c.—so that the reports

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may appear as an Appendix to a volume of the *Monthly Notices* [the sizes of the pages in *Proc. R.S.* and *Monthly Notices* are almost the same], the extra expense of this one thousand copies being borne by this Society. Fellows of this Society may expect to receive this Appendix during the present summer for inclusion in the present volume of *Monthly Notices.*

As regards the full and final reports these will be printed as a volume of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, and copies of this volume will be presented by the Royal Society to our Fellows who apply for them, and to such observatories, institutions, &c. as receive copies of our Memoirs.

It may be added that our Council have referred to the J.P.E. Committee the question whether it would not be desirable to invite other observers than those sent out by the Committee to communicate their results for publication along with these final reports in the volume of *Philosophical Transactions.*

H. F. Newall, } *Secretaries.*
H. H. Turner, }

Reply to Dr. Rambaut's Note "On the Effect of Chromatic Dispersion." By David Gill, C.B., F.R.S., Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope.

In the *Monthly Notices* for 1898 March Dr. Rambaut communicates a long and elaborate note on a previous paper of mine entitled "On the Effect of Chromatic Dispersion of the Atmosphere on the parallaxes of *α Centauri* and *β Orionis.*"

I desire before entering on any criticism of this note to acknowledge the value of Dr. Rambaut's original paper in so far as it suggests the desirability of expressing the possible effect of chromatic dispersion on parallax researches; and indeed I have acknowledged the value of that suggestion not only in my original paper, but in the best manner in my power, viz. by adopting it. In the determinations of stellar parallax, which I have since published, I have given the effect of chromatic dispersion in terms of $\Delta\beta$ on the result, or, when the observations admitted of it being done, I have determined the special value of $\Delta\beta$.

In no case, however, has $\Delta\beta$ proved to be a sensible quantity.

The point in Dr. Rambaut's original paper, which I was compelled to dispute, was the conclusion that my results were affected by a systematic error following the law of the effect of chromatic dispersion. Had such an error existed to the extent which Dr. Rambaut's discussion professed to show (viz. $\Delta\beta = 0''\cdot095$, with factors of $\Delta\beta$ ranging from $-2\cdot3$ to $+0\cdot7$, producing systematic errors amounting to $+0''\cdot2$ and $-0''\cdot07$) I should certainly have been guilty of extreme want of circumspection in having over-

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